

EXMOUTH
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

For 1915,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

BY

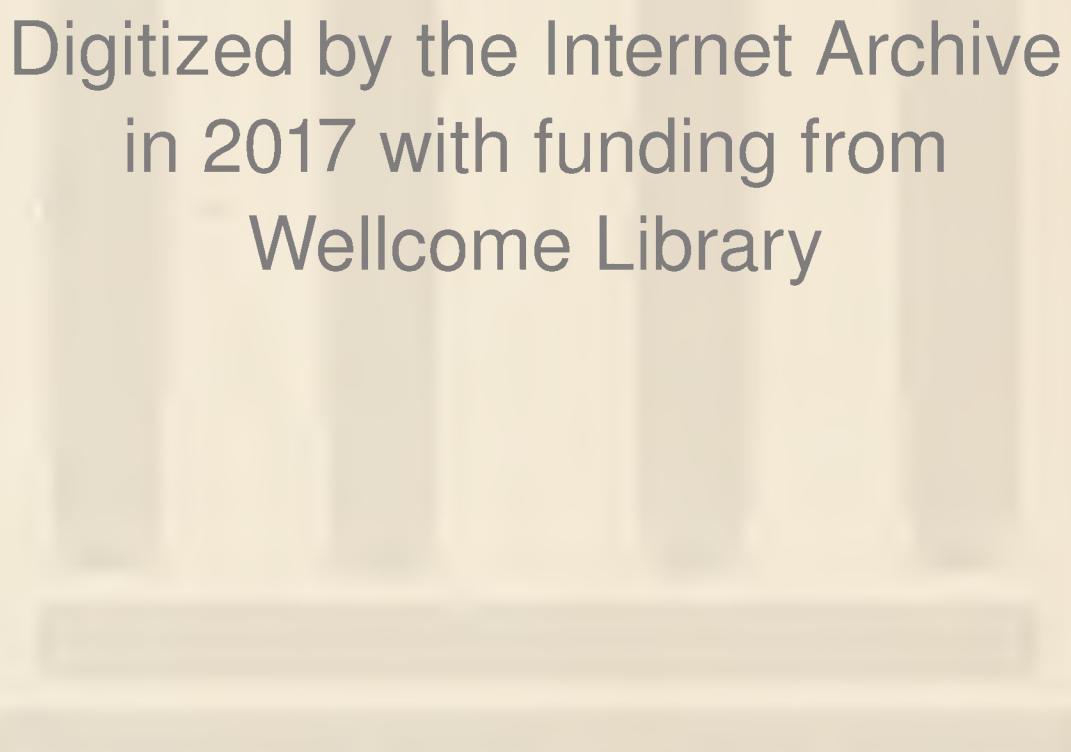
CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. CAMB., &c.,

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

EXMOUTH :

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REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Exmouth Urban District Council.

February 24th, 1916.

GENTLEMEN,

In the absence of Dr. Sturdee, your Medical Officer of Health, who has been serving with His Majesty's forces since the beginning of the war, I beg to present the Annual Report for 1915, concerning the public health of the town. In this Report, the various headings adopted by Dr. Sturdee in his previous reports, will be adhered to, thus facilitating reference and making comparisons easy. The usual four statistical tables will be found at the end, and in their compilation every effort has been made to render them accurate. In view of war conditions, the report has been somewhat curtailed, but it is hoped that nothing of importance has been omitted.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town enjoys an abundant supply of pure soft water. The colour is sometimes of a slightly brown tint, but this is quite harmless from a dietetic point of view. Subjoined is the report of the Public Analyst of a sample taken in November, 1915, and his opinion of the water and the result of the analysis is eminently satisfactory.

I beg to enclose records of the results of analysis of samples of water taken on 22nd November, 1915.

The analyses show no variation from the normal other than that due to climatic conditions, the most notable effect being an increase in the oxygen absorption which is due to the soluable matter of vegetation and humas.

The results of bacteriological examination are satisfactory as showing both that the original source of supply is free from pollutive conditions and that the filtration is efficiently performed.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS TICKLE.

ANALYTICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE.

EXMOUTH WATER SUPPLY.

From Low Level Service Reservoir taken 22nd November, 1915

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS.

Colour	...	...	...	...	Brown tint.
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Clear.
Taste	...	...	...	...	Natural.
Ordour	...	...	...	...	None.
Suspended Matters	...	...	...	...	None.

BACTERIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Number of microbes per cubic centimetre	...	...	5
Number of liquefying microbes per cubic centimetre	...	...	0
Bacillus Coli Communis. Number per 100 cubic centimetres	...	...	3

ANALYSIS.

(Stated as parts per Hundred Thousand).

Total Solid Constituents 10.4

Behaviour of Solid Constituents on ignition shows trace of organic matter.

Loss of Solid Constituents on ignition	...	...	...	1.4
Chlorine present as Chlorides	...	...	...	2.3
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	...	...	...	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.08
Phosphates	...	...	...	0
Total Hardness (in terms equivalent to Calcium Carbonate)	...	...	2.4	
Temporary Hardness (diminished by boiling)	...	...	1.6	
Permanent Hardness (after boiling)	...	...	0.8	

Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.009
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80.0 F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.20
Oxygen absorbed immediately	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Lead	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Copper	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Zinc	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

SEWERAGE.

Defective existing sewers have been relaid, in all cases in concrete, and the system extended where required to link up new property. The whole system has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Seventeen houses were entirely and sixty-seven partially retrained. Forty-eight w.c.'s were reconstructed or improved. The water carriage system is universal throughout the district. One hundred and fifty ashbins were supplied.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

The Destructor continues to be highly efficient, and the surplus steam is often utilised in driving the machinery of the adjoining brickworks.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Twenty-one plans were submitted to the Council during the year, and in all cases the Byelaws were strictly adhered to.

Twenty-five new houses were completed.

WORKSHOPS.

There are one hundred and twenty-two registered workshops and twenty-three bakehouses in the district. They have all been inspected during the year, and only minor defects have been discovered. The number of outworkers employed is twenty-six.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These have been inspected with satisfactory results. There are 50 in the district.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are five registered slaughter houses and one licensed. Considering the position and environment of some of them, they revealed no gross violation of the byelaws, and their condition was satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

There is only one in the district. It has been inspected and found satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

On the 31st of August, 1914, a letter was sent out by the Local Government Board to the medical officer of health of every sanitary district in England and Wales, setting out the preliminaries arranged for securing active co-operation between civil and military sanitary services.

In this circular-letter, medical officers of health were asked to place themselves in communication with the local military medical authorities, offering any services which might be useful, and addressing communications dealing with matters of importance to the deputy director of medical services of the Command.

The following points were also set out :—

- (1) Each medical officer of health was asked to give information and assistance to military sanitary officers as to—
 Water supplies,
 Disposal of refuse,
 Drainage and conservancy arrangements.
 Control of infectious diseases, &c.
- (2) The importance of the assistance of the sanitary inspector was indicated.
- (3) A system of inter-notification of infectious diseases, both by military and civil sanitary officers, was arranged.

- (4) Attention was drawn to the value of anti-typhoid inoculation.
- (5) The probable need for increased hospital accommodation for small-pox and enteric fever was emphasised.
- (6) The services of the medical staff of the Board were offered to medical officers of health for consultation; and local visits by medical inspectors were announced.

Prior to the sending of this circular letter, the Board, on August 12th, 1914, had issued a circular to county councils and sanitary authorities drawing the attention of local authorities to the great importance of maintaining the efficiency of the sanitary service of the country during the war. It was pointed out that, as in many areas the medical officers of health and other officers engaged in public health work would be giving their services to the Navy or Army, it would become necessary for the local authority to make other arrangements for carrying on their work; and that it was essential that there should be no relaxation of the activities of local authorities in the prevention and control of epidemic diseases, the protection of water supplies from contamination, the promotion of child welfare, in securing the wholesomeness of food supplies and in maintaining the general sanitary condition of each area.

In spite of the exceptional conditions prevailing in the town during 1915, i.e., the large number of soldiers, both cavalry and infantry, there were only 39 cases of infectious disease notified, as against 33 in 1914, 44 in 1913, and 39 in 1912.

Table II. at the end of the Report shows the number of cases notified of each disease and the ages at which they occurred.

The only case which calls for special notice was one of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis or "Spotted Fever," which ended fatally in a few days. Curiously enough it occurred

in one of the highest and presumably healthiest parts of the district, near Littleham Station.

Exhaustive efforts were unavailingly made to discover the source of infection. Every care was taken to prevent dissemination of the disease by the usual methods of disinfection of premises and clothing, supplemented by precise verbal instructions to those who had been in contact with the case. It is gratifying to note that no other cases arose, but at the time the case caused much anxiety to your sanitary staff.

ISOLATION.

Ten cases of infectious disease were removed to Whipton at a cost of £77 6s. 6d., of which £13 5s. was recovered from patients or their relatives.

DISINFECTION.

Thirty-eight houses were disinfected, and forty-two lots of bedding and clothing were disinfected by steam. All the public elementary schools were disinfected four times during the year. About 10,000 blankets, rugs and bed covers were steam disinfected for soldiers billeted in the district, and two days a week were set aside for steaming articles of clothing in connection with the troops. This entailed a lot of extra work on the Sanitary Inspector, and was cheerfully undertaken, with very satisfactory results to the soldiers themselves and the rest of the community.

During the year the Local Government Board urged Sanitary Authorities to make suitable provision for cases of smallpox, which, by reason of the war, might arise or be introduced into their districts. Your Council at once took the matter in hand, and the Surveyor, with characteristic energy, was fortunate enough to find a suitable spot and accommodation. I visited the site and inspected the building with him, and am of opinion that both are eminently suitable for the reception of cases of the disease in question, if, unfortunately, they should appear in our midst. Moreover, the Council acquire them on distinctly

advantageous terms, and you will agree with me that Mrs. Tucker Pain has acted very generously and patriotically in accepting the terms which are set out in the accompanying agreement.

PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR SMALL POX PATIENTS.

We beg to report that we have given this matter our careful attention and are in a position to state, subject to the approval of the Committee, that we have made the following arrangements with Mrs. Tucker Pain for the renting of a bungalow and two acre field at Dalditch.

The terms agreed with Mrs. Tucker Pain are as follows :—

1.—The Council to have use of Bungalow and Plot of Land (No. 398) adjoining Dalditch Common, East Budleigh, for the purpose of isolating small pox cases, for a period ending six months after peace is declared.

2.—The Council shall pay an annual rent of £15 and all taxes, rates, etc., from October 1st, 1915.

3.—If the Council actually use the Bungalow for small pox patients, they shall, at the end of the period above named, destroy the structure and erect another at or near the same site, paying compensation for any fittings, furniture, crockery, etc., at present in the building, if the same cannot be removed before the patients enter the building.

4.—The Council are to carry out such fencing works if the Bungalow is occupied, as will satisfy the Local Government Board.

5.—Mrs. Tucker Pain is to be allowed the occupation of the bungalow and land until required for patients, but immediate possession is to be given to the Council when required, and the Council are to be at liberty to revise and improve the sanitary arrangements of the Bungalow before they enter into possession, if they so require.

We are of opinion that the above terms are very satisfactory. The present Bungalow is capable of isolating two or three cases, and if the urgency of the position so demanded, more accommodation could be erected on the land, which in area is about two acres.

As regards the additional accommodation, plans have been prepared showing the arrangements for a small hospital block, to be constructed of wood and galvanised iron.

If the climatic conditions and seasons were favourable, tents could be used. This type of accommodation proved very satisfactory at Dewsbury.

(Signed) CLARENCE BEESLEY,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.
Samuel Hutton, Engineer and Surveyor.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of Exmouth at the census in 1901 was 10,472, and in 1911 11,963, an increase in the ten years of 1,491 persons, or an average of 149.1 per annum. Assuming this increase to have continued, the estimated population for 1915 is 12,596, and this figure has been used in compiling the statistical tables set out at the end of this Report.

The births numbered 168, the birthrate being 13.3 per 1,000 as compared with 14.5 in 1914. The deaths numbered 156, giving a deathrate of 12.3 per 1,000, as compared with 13.3 in 1914.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Seven infants died under one year old, producing an infant mortality of 41.66 per 1,000 births. This is a very satisfactory figure.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Tabulated return as per Clause 5 of the regulations of the Local Government Board as to the inspection of dwelling-houses.

1.—Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17	135
2.—Number of dwelling houses which on inspec- tion were found to be in such a state as to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	nil
3.—Number of representations made to the local authority with the view of making closing orders	nil
4.—Number of closing orders made (one house was voluntarily closed)	nil
5.—Number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	115
6.—Number of dwelling-houses which, on inspec- tion, were found to be in good sanitary condition...	6
7.—Number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a state fit for human habitation	nil

The general character of the defects found were : defective w.c.'s, ash pits, scullery floors; and yard paving, and insufficient means of ventilation.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Members of the Council for their unvarying courtesy to me, and also the Surveyor and Inspector for their valuable help in the compilation of this Report, and for their ready co-operation at all times, and I think that our thanks are also due to all the other members of the Sanitary Staff, who have performed their duties so satisfactorily during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

CLARENCE BEESLEY.

Table I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.
Name of District—EXMOUTH URBAN

YEAR.	Births.		Total deaths registered in the District.		Transferable deaths		Total Deaths Registered in the District.	
	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Un- corrected Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1910	11950	167	13.97	148	12.38	12	71.85	147
1911	11963	192	16.30	127	10.62	9	4	30.78
1912	12160	163	13.40	144	11.84	12	13	13.4
1913	12298	182	14.72	128	10.41	2	12	79.59
1914	12309	177	14.5	156	12.6	4	10	145
1915	12596	168	13.3	157	12.4	11	12	54.94
						10	10	138
						7	6	11.22
						4	33.52	154
						10	41.66	13.3
						11	156	12.3

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)— 4000.

Total population at all ages—11963.

Total families or separate occupiers—2975.

Average number of persons per house—4.02.

} At Census
of 1911.

Table II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

Name of District—EXMOORTH URRAN

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						Total cases notified in each Locality.	Total cases removed to hospital	
	AT ALL AGES.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ..	...							
Cholera ..	...							
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1								
Erysipelas ...	12	1							
Scarlet fever ...	16								
Typhus fever ...	3								
Enteric fever ...									
Relapsing fever ...									
Continued fever ...									
Puerperal fever ...									
Cerebro-spinal ...	1								
Meningitis ...									
Poliomyelitis ...									
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis ...	6								
Other Forms of Tuberculosis									
Totals ...	39	1	3	8	7	8	8	4	

Isolation Hospital—WHIPTON NEAR EXETER. DISTANCE 11 MILES.

Total available beds 80.

Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

Table III.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1915.
URBAN DISTRICT OF EXMOUTH.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.										Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institutions in the District. 11
	ALL AGES	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
ALL CAUSES { Certified	167	7	5	3	2	2	16	27	105		
Uncertified											
Enteric fever ...	...	...							
Small-pox ...	...	...							
Measles ...	...	...	3	3							
Scarlet fever ...	...	...							
Whooping-cough ...	...									
Diphtheria and croup ...	...									
Influenza ...	...	5	1					1	3		
Erysipelas ...	...	1	1								
Diabetes ...	...									
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	...	6					1	3	1	1	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2		1					1			
Other tuberculous diseases	1								1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	19							2	10	7	
Rheumatic fever ...	2								1	1	
Meningitis ...	2			1		1					
Organic Heart Diseases ...	20				1		1	3	15		
Bronchitis ...	13			1				1	11		
Broncho-Pneumonia ...											
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	10		1	1					1	7	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	5							1		4	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...											
Appendicitis and Typhlitis											
Cirrhosis of liver ...	2							1		1	
Alcoholism ...	3							2	1		
Nephritis & Bright's disease	3							1	2		
Puerperal fever ...	...									
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...											
Congenital Debility and Mal-formation, including premature birth ...	5	5									
Violent deaths, excluding suicide ...	5							2	2	1	
Suicide ...	...	1							1		
Accidents ...											
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...											
Other defined diseases ...	59					1		1	3	54	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...											
Totals ...	167	7	5	3	2	2	16	27	105	3	

Table IV.
URBAN DISTRICT OF EXMOUTH.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Births in the year } legitimate } 155
 } illegitimate } 13

Population, estimated to middle of
1915, 12,596.

Deaths in the year } legitimate infants } 7
 } illegitimate , , }

Factory and Workshop Act.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... 178 Inspections.

2. - Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Number of Defects nil.

3.—Home Work.

Lists received from Employers sending

Nature of Work. twice in the year.

Making Wearing Apparel	2 Lists	26 Workmen Outworkers.
Total	2	26

4.—Registered Workshops.

*Workshops on the Register at the
end of the year.*

Number.

Workshops (general)	122
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Bakehouses	23
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Total number of workshops on Register	145
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5.—Other Matters

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5).

Notified by H.M. Inspector	nil.
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Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	...	nil
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Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—

Certificates granted during the year	nil.
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In use at the end of the year	nil.
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